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Temporary Closure of Daniel French Drive Shift for Lincoln Memorial Tour Bus, Taxi and Disabled Vehicle Access

Washington D.C. – Temporary changes to traffic approaches on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial will soon affect tour bus, taxi and disabled visitors as the last phase of road repairs is set to get underway.

Beginning Monday, **August 14, 2006** the National Park Service (NPS) will temporarily close off all vehicle access to **Daniel French Drive and northbound 23rd Street South**. This area will be **temporarily closed until fall of 2006**. All vehicle traffic to and from Arlington Memorial Bridge will remain open. All vehicle access and parking on Daniel French Drive for tour buses, taxis and visitors with disabilities will be temporarily relocated to new and temporarily designated areas on Constitution Avenue, Henry Bacon Drive and Ohio Drive while the NPS completes roadway repairs, repaving, storm drain improvements and sidewalk repairs in this area.

Both pedestrian access to the Lincoln Memorial and bicycle access to and from the Arlington Memorial Bridge will be maintained at all times, but may be temporarily detoured at times to 23rd Street South. Tourmobile, the NPS interpretive transportation provider, will relocate their Lincoln Memorial stop to the southwest corner of Lincoln Circle. Tourmobile will continue to serve all of the stops on the American Heritage tour on the National Mall and to Arlington National Cemetery. However, Tourmobile will reorder the stops on the west end of the National Mall. Tourmobile operates the American Heritage tour daily from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. year round.

Alternate Tour Bus Areas

Also beginning Monday, August 14, 2006, new and additional temporary tour bus loading and unloading areas will be available to the north of the Lincoln Memorial on the west curb of Henry Bacon Drive and on the south curb of Constitution Avenue between 23rd Street North and Henry Bacon Drive. Tour bus loading and unloading will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily on Constitution Avenue. On Henry Bacon Drive, tour buses will be permitted to load and unload between 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily.

A tour bus detour via park roads on Independence Avenue, 15th Street and Constitution Avenue will be clearly signed. A detailed closure map is attached and a suggested tour bus detour route map is available for download from the NPS Lincoln Memorial website at www.nps.gov/linc.

Temporary Taxi Stand and Parking for Disabled Visitors

Taxis and parking for visitors with disabilities will be temporarily relocated to southbound Ohio Drive south of Independence Ave., and 23rd Street South. Pedestrian access from these parking areas northward to the Lincoln Memorial and to the adjacent Korean War Veterans Memorial will be maintained throughout this period.

This temporary construction closure is part of an overall project for the Lincoln Memorial area which includes reconstructed roads and sidewalks, new roadway lighting, new signalized pedestrian crossings, improved additional visitor service kiosks (with food service and gifts) and a permanent vehicle barrier system to protect visitors and the memorial. The new bus areas and the new visitor service kiosk on Henry Bacon Drive are designed to create a new focal point for visitor amenities on the north side of the Lincoln Memorial. This addition will augment the visitor service improvements underway on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial, and will better serve the 8 to 10 million individuals who visit the west end of the National Mall annually.

The new visitor kiosk on Henry Bacon Drive which will open this summer, will operate daily from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. throughout the summer and early fall. The new visitor kiosk will feature a café design and a menu including “grab and go” items such as wrapped sandwiches and nuts. Two new signalized pedestrian crosswalks are being installed on the north side of the memorial to facilitate access to the new kiosk and to the tour bus areas. New tour bus loading and unloading areas on the west curb of Henry Bacon Drive are a permanent addition to the Lincoln Memorial area. Tour bus, taxi and disabled visitor vehicle access will be restored and improved on Daniel French Drive at the completion of the road project anticipated in late 2006.